

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**Executive Office of Environmental Affairs ■ MEPA Office**

**ENF**

**Environmental Notification Form**

<i>For Office Use Only</i>	
<i>Executive Office of Environmental Affairs</i>	
EOEA No.:	<i>14103</i>
MEPA Analyst:	<i>Aisling Eglinton</i>
Phone:	<i>617-626-1024</i>

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: <b>Reconstruction of River Road</b>		
Street: <b>River Road</b>		
Municipality: <b>Florida</b>	Watershed: <b>Deerfield</b>	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: <b>Start x: 330250, y: 4652900</b> <b>Finish x: 329600, y: 4657300</b>	Latitude: <b>42°39'48"N to 42°39'58"N</b> Longitude: <b>72°58'04"W to 72°59'14"W</b>	
Estimated commencement date: <b>Dec. 07</b>	Estimated completion date: <b>Dec. 08</b>	
Approximate cost: <b>\$6.1M</b>	Status of project design: <b>100% design phase</b>	
Proponent: <b>MassHighway &amp; Town of Florida</b>		
Street: <b>10 Park Plaza, Room 4260 (MassHighway Address)</b>		
Municipality: <b>Boston</b>	State: <b>MA</b>	Zip Code: <b>02116</b>
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: <b>Grace Arthur</b>		
Firm/Agency: <b>MassHighway</b>	Street: <b>10 Park Plaza, Room 4260</b>	
Municipality: <b>Boston</b>	State: <b>MA</b>	Zip Code: <b>02116</b>
Phone: <b>617-973-8251</b>	Fax: <b>617-973-8879</b>	E-mail: <b>Grace.Arthur@mhd.state.ma.us</b>

Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?  
 Yes  No

Has this project been filed with MEPA before?  
 Yes (EOEA No. \_\_\_\_\_)  No

Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?  
 Yes (EOEA No. \_\_\_\_\_)  No

Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:  
 a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8))  Yes  No  
 a Special Review Procedure? (see 301 CMR 11.09)  Yes  No  
 a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11)  Yes  No  
 a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11)  Yes  No

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area (in acres): **FHWA 80%, MassHighway 20%**

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?  
 Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: **Florida Conservation Commission, Order of**

**Conditions, ACOE PGPI.**

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- |                                 |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land   | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water  | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Air          | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACEC   | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations  | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical & Archaeological Resources |

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
<b>LAND</b>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superceding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i> Fish & Wildlife Project Review
Total site acreage	8.6 acres			
New acres of land altered		4.6 acres		
Acres of impervious area	3.7 acres	0.3 acres	4.0 acres	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		399 sq ft		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		Bank 60 lf LUW 33 sf BLSF 88,920 sf; RFA - 374,403 sf		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		N/A		
<b>STRUCTURES</b>				
Gross square footage	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Number of housing units	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Maximum height (in feet)	N/A	N/A	N/A	
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>				
Vehicle trips per day	200	No Change	200	
Parking spaces	N/A	N/A	N/A	
<b>WATER/WASTEWATER</b>				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	N/A	N/A	N/A	
GPD water withdrawal	N/A	N/A	N/A	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	N/A	N/A	N/A	

**CONSERVATION LAND:** Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

- Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_ )  No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_ )  No

**RARE SPECIES:** Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities?

Yes MNHESP Priority Habitat (PH#83) and Estimated Habitat (WH#34)  No

**HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES:** Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_ )  No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_ )  No

**AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN:** Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_ )  No

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project description should include (a) a description of the project site, (b) a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and (c) potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative (You may attach one additional page, if necessary.)

The Town of Florida has designed improvements to the River Road corridor, from the intersection with Whitcomb Hill Road southerly for a distance of approximately 2.24 kilometers (1.39 miles). MassHighway has included this project in its roadway reconstruction program. River Road is classified under the Federal Aid System as a "rural major collector" and has an Average Daily Traffic (ADT) of 200 vehicles. The posted speed limit within the project area will be retained following reconstruction. The proposed improvements consist of earth excavation, excavation by cold planer, full depth hot mix asphalt pavement construction, hot mix asphalt berm installation, and drainage system improvements. The existing roadway section has a variable width throughout the project corridor ranging from 5.5 meters (18 feet) to 7.5 meters (25 feet). Approximately three private properties abut the project corridor. The River Road public right-of-way is 15.24 meters (50 feet). The current pavement condition on River Road is poor, evidenced by visible alligator cracking, rutting, depressions, and raveling.

The typical section for the reconstruction of River Road will provide for a uniform paved width of 7.0 meters (23.0 ft). As a result, River Road will be widened an approximate average of 0.46 meters (1.5 ft) throughout the project corridor, with limited areas of decrease in roadway width. The proposed cross-section includes two 3.0 meter (10.0 ft) travel lanes, and 0.5 meter (1.5 ft) paved shoulders. Areas with new pavement width, exists currently as non-paved roadway shoulders. This proposed cross section meets the minimum required width for travel lanes and shoulders for a MassHighway defined 'Low Speed / Low Volume Roadway.' The minimum widths were proposed to reduce the number of Right of Way acquisitions, to reduce the number of trees impacted, to reduce the number of slope easements required, and to reduce the impacts to adjacent wetland areas including intermittent streams and associated Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. The project as proposed requires an ENF pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MGL c. 30 § 61-62H) and its implementing regulations at 301 CMR

11.03(6)(b)2.b where there is the proposed cutting of “five or more living public shade trees of 14 or more inches in diameter at breast height”. Roadway reconstruction for River Road will result in the removal of approximately 46 public shade trees. The roadway within the project corridor is bordered on one side by forested land and on the other side by the Deerfield River and its bordering forested floodplain. Tree replacement is not being proposed for this project. Required cutting of selected trees for roadway improvement purposes will have a relatively insignificant impact on the overall aesthetics and shading of the project corridor. Furthermore, tree replacement would be impractical as it would require additional easement taking and potential negative impact to wetland resource areas.

The project area is located within a Priority Habitat and Estimated Habitat according to the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program letter dated August 30, 2006. The MNHESP has reviewed the project and determined that the project, as currently proposed, will not result in a prohibited “take” of state-listed rare species provided all the conditions recommended by MNHESP are implemented. Mitigation includes special erosion/sedimentation control procedures and invasive species mitigation. See attached MNHESP sign off letter dated June 15, 2007.

### Alternatives Analysis

1) Reconstruction with travel lane widening only was considered. This option without the installation of shoulders would not adequately improve safety conditions for motorists, bicycles or pedestrians. Furthermore, this option would not meet MassHighway’s minimum design standards for the roadway classification as previously mentioned. If minimum design standards are not met, River Road would not be eligible for construction funding from MassHighway.

2) Pavement overlay only was considered as an option for this project. However, the roadways inadequate subgrade would not be addressed, as indicated by deteriorating overlay areas along River Road. This option would not meet MassHighway’s minimum safety design standards for the roadway classification.

3)The no build alternative was considered. This option would not address the deteriorating road surface conditions, and inadequate drainage system. Additionally, this option would not correct the poor safety conditions within the corridor.

The preferred alternative for the reconstruction of River Road is to widen the travel lanes with the addition of shoulders and guardrail according to MassHighway’s minimum design standards for the roadway classification. Designing according to MassHighway’s minimum safety design standards will improve public safety, roadway surface problems, drainage system inadequacies, and create safe pedestrian and bicycle access through the corridor. The design concept proposes “holding” the existing edge of road locations closest to the Deerfield River, and widening to the south, away from the river. The project, as proposed, will maintain and improve the existing roadway, including widening (limited to less than a single lane width) resulting in drainage system and road safety improvements. This project is considered a redevelopment project pursuant to the DEP Stormwater Management Policy. Although, this is a redevelopment project, it is

in compliance to the greatest extent practicable with the nine standards of the Stormwater Management Policy. Pursuant to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act Regulations (310 CMR 10.53 (3)(f)) this work falls under the description of a "limited" status project. All work will conform to the general performance standards of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c. 131 § 40) and its implementing regulations at 310 CMR 10.00.

**LAND SECTION – all proponents must fill out this section**

**I. Thresholds / Permits**

A. Does the project meet or exceed any review thresholds related to land (see 301 CMR 11.03(1))  
 \_\_\_ Yes  No; if yes, specify each threshold:

**II. Impacts and Permits**

A. Describe, in acres, the current and proposed character of the project site, as follows:

	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Total</u>
Footprint of buildings			
Roadways, parking, and other paved areas	<u>3.7 acres</u>	<u>0.3 acres</u>	<u>4.0 acres</u>
Other altered areas (describe)	<u>4.0 acres of side slope regrading,</u>		
	<u>0.5 acres sloped paving</u>		
Undeveloped areas			

B. Has any part of the project site been in active agricultural use in the last three years?  
 \_\_\_ Yes  No; if yes, how many acres of land in agricultural use (with agricultural soils) will be converted to nonagricultural use?

C. Is any part of the project site currently or proposed to be in active forestry use?  
 \_\_\_ Yes  No; if yes, please describe current and proposed forestry activities and indicate whether any part of the site is the subject of a DEM-approved forest management plan:

D. Does any part of the project involve conversion of land held for natural resources purposes in accordance with Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?  Yes \_\_\_ No; if yes, describe:

**The project requires an easement on DCR owned property which might require the filing of Article 97 Legislation. A DCR permit is required for an easement on the Brookfield Power Property, on which DCR holds a perpetual Conservation Restriction (CR). The Town has already contacted DCR about the easements.**

E. Is any part of the project site currently subject to a conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction or watershed preservation restriction? \_\_\_ Yes  No; if yes, does the project involve the release or modification of such restriction? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No; if yes, describe:

F. Does the project require approval of a new urban redevelopment project or a fundamental change in an existing urban redevelopment project under M.G.L.c.121A? \_\_\_ Yes  No; if yes, describe:

G. Does the project require approval of a new urban renewal plan or a major modification of an existing urban renewal plan under M.G.L.c.121B? Yes \_\_\_ No ; if yes, describe:

H. Describe the project's stormwater impacts and, if applicable, measures that the project will take to comply with the standards found in DEP's Stormwater Management Policy:

**Stormwaters are currently taken to the lower side of the roadway, primarily by catch basins and cross culverts in many areas. The project proposes to improve these areas by the addition of deep sump catch basins and approximately 6,000 feet of vegetated swales. This will be an improvement from currently less than 25% TSS removal for the non-deep sump basins to 70% TSS**